

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Page 9, lines 17-26 and Page 10, lines 1-2 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The flattening out of this curve is due to the compressibility of a gas versus the non-compressibility of a liquid. During low speed or low frequency movements of shock absorber 26, minimal compression of the gas occurs and movement of piston assembly 32 easily transfers gas between working chambers 44 and 46 of pressure tube 30. As the frequency of the movement increases, compression of the gas will also increase, changing the dissipation as the compressed gas begins to work like a gas spring. The specific point at which the gas shock curve bends away from the liquid shock curve can be tuned by selecting different sizes for passages 70 and 72 and different stiffnesses for valve plates 78 and 88. In addition to changing the shape of the frequency versus dissipation response curves, the height of the curve can also be tuned by changing the initial gas pressure within working chamber 42 as well as changing the axial position of valve body 150. The initial gas pressure within working chamber 42 is provided through a port 160 which is sealed with a plug 162 or sealed by any other means found in the art once the initial gas pressure within working chamber 42 is set.